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NOTICE.

Any person on the mailing list of the PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS who, at any time, fails to receive promptly this publication will confer a favor by notifying the Surgeon-General of the United States Marine-Hospital Service.

UNITED STATES.

CHANGES IN THE FOREIGN QUARANTINE INSPECTION SERVICE.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *June 13, 1900.*

SIR: In view of the recommendations which follow, namely, to recall a number of the officers who have been detailed to serve in the offices of the United States consuls at foreign ports, leaving a few of the officers as a skeleton organization and for the purpose of observation and conveying information to the Bureau, I have to invite your attention to the letter of November 22, 1899, giving my reasons for requesting authority for the detail of these officers. As stated in my letter of November 22, plague existed at that time in Oporto and Lisbon, Portugal; there were rumors of it in Spain and France, and a cablegram had just been received at the Department of State announcing a case of the plague at Trieste, and it had also been found upon one or two of the ships arriving at European ports, and as illustrating the possibility of its transmission across to America, attention was called to its having appeared at Asuncion, Paraguay, and Santos, Brazil. It was also officially reported at Kolobovka, Russia.

In accordance with the recommendations made in my letter of November 22, 1899, medical officers of the Marine-Hospital Service are now serving in the offices of the United States consuls at Glasgow, Liverpool, London, Southampton, Queenstown, Hamburg, Bremen, Rotterdam, Antwerp, Havre, Marseilles, Naples, and Genoa.

In the meantime, however, instead of an extension of the plague, as was anticipated, it has been suppressed in Portugal, and no further cases have been reported in Trieste, Asuncion, Santos, or Kolobovka. At the present writing, so far as known, the plague does not exist in any European port.

The services of these officers in foreign ports have been valuable, but for some little time I have felt that the emergency was not sufficient to warrant the expense of maintaining all of them abroad. Indirectly they have been of great utility to the Immigration Bureau and I am informed that the number of cases requiring rejection arriving at New York has been materially diminished since these officers were sent abroad. On this account an effort was made to have the Immigration Bureau bear a portion of the expense, but this has been declined.

Another reason for the recommendation which is to follow is that the emigrants at foreign ports, on account of the closeness of the inspection, I am informed, are persuaded by the Canadian steamship lines to embark upon their vessels with a view to reaching the United States through Canada and without the close surveillance which is exercised at foreign ports of emigrants leaving for the United States.

While a medical officer has been and is now stationed at Quebec with a view to inspecting any emigrants bound for places in the United States, this inspection service can not prevent large numbers of emigrants, who might be rejected on arrival at the United States or abroad, from finding their way to this country through a Canadian port.

I understand that a bill has been introduced by the Immigration Bureau to provide for certain stations on the border and restricting the entry of emigrants to these designated stations. Until this bill becomes a law, or some other means is provided for an efficient restraint on the Canadian border, emigrants will continue to come that way, for the Canadian government has no immigration law or regulations conforming to our own. In times of great epidemics the quarantine regulations are virtually the same, and therefore at such times the utility of the foreign inspection service is not impaired, but when there is no prevailing epidemic in Europe the effect of our own foreign inspection service is to cause a diversion of traffic to the Canadian lines as before stated.

In view of the recent outbreak of plague in San Francisco and the great probability that yellow fever will reappear in Florida, and possibly in other Southern States, during the coming summer, the services of these officers are very necessary in the United States.

I have given this matter very careful consideration and with reluctance have come to the conclusion that for the reasons herein given it is desirable to withdraw the major portion of our medical officers from foreign ports. In my opinion, the proper arrangement would be to provide for the permanent detail of medical officers at the United States consulates in the principal ports abroad, and at the same time, either by law provide for the inspection of immigrants on the border or make

arrangement with the Canadian government by which the same restraints would be enforced by them as are enforced by the Immigration Bureau in this country. Until such arrangement can be made, and for the reasons above given, I recommend now the withdrawal of the medical officers of the Marine-Hospital Service from the offices of the United States consuls at the several ports, excepting Naples, but for the purpose of observation and for the purpose of maintaining a skeleton organization, recommend that at the following-named 4 places authority be granted to assign 4 of the officers now serving in Europe—Berlin, London, Paris, and Vienna.

These officers to be attached to the offices of the United States consuls-general and that their duties be as follows, namely, to keep thoroughly informed upon the progress of epidemic diseases, which they can do by being provided with proper letters of introduction to our ministers, through visits to the bacteriological laboratories, which are good fields for information, and by keeping in touch with the United States consuls. They will also be directed from time to time to visit the different consulates and to witness the methods of enforcing the quarantine regulations in vogue, and give such advice or information relating thereto to the several consuls as may seem to be proper.

Should the plague or cholera become epidemic in any European city or country, the Bureau would then have at its disposal, already on the ground, a corps of trained officers who could immediately be called upon for duty in any specified port or ports.

Exception is made in the case of Naples, because the officer at that port was detailed by special request of the United States consul, and it is believed advantageous to retain him there, and he will act in the same capacity as those detailed to the consulates-general, in addition to his other duties.

Respectfully,

WALTER WYMAN,
Surgeon-General, U. S. M. H. S.

Approved: O. L. SPAULDING, *Acting Secretary.*

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *June 14, 1900.*

Approved: WILLIAM MCKINLEY.

Hon. SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

In accordance with the above-outlined plan the following details have been made: P. A. Surg. A. R. Thomas, office of United States consul-general, London, England; P. A. Surg. J. B. Greene, office of United States consul-general, Berlin, Germany; Asst. Surg. S. B. Grubbs, office of United States consul-general, Paris, France; Asst. Surg. J. F. Anderson, office of United States consul general, Vienna, Austria, and Asst. Surg. V. G. Heiser, office of United States consul, Naples, Italy.